

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Claims 25-42 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 25-42 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, and the specification has been objected to. By the present amendment, the specification has been amended. No new matter has been added by the current amendment, as support thereof can be found in the present specification at, *inter alia*, the first full paragraph on page 30 of the originally filed specification. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

II. OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been objected to because of an informality. Specifically, the Examiner has noted that the symbols " η_{INT} " and " η_P " which appeared in the first full paragraph on page 30 of the original specification were changed to -- h_{INT} -- and -- h_P -- in the replacement paragraph set forth in the preliminary amendment. Applicants have herein amended the first full paragraph on page 30 of the specification to include the symbols " η_{INT} " and " η_P " which appeared in the first full paragraph on page 30 of the original specification. In addition, Applicants have herein updated the status of applications cited in the specification on pages 1, 10, 17, 19, 30 and 32 to reflect their current status as being patented or abandoned. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to the specification has been overcome and should therefore be withdrawn.

III. DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTIONS


Claims 25-42 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-7 and 11-17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,692,820, and as being unpatentable over claims 1-7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,451,415. Applicants submit herewith a terminal disclaimer filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321 in order to overcome these obviousness-type double patenting rejections. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that these obviousness-type double patenting rejections have been overcome and should therefore be withdrawn.

IV. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance and request that such action be taken. If for any reason the Examiner believes that prosecution of this application would be advanced by contact with the Applicants' attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

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Respectfully submitted,
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